Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a metal oxide layer on a substrate, comprising ~~in which~~ the following successive steps of~~are carried out~~:

a) dispersing a metal oxide powder ~~is dispersed~~ in a liquid medium comprising a dispersion solvent and a dispersant, ~~the~~ said liquid medium containing neither a plasticizer nor a binder, by means of which a suspension A of ~~the~~ said metal oxide powder in ~~the~~ said liquid medium is obtained;

b) adding a solution of at least one polymer in a solvent ~~is added~~ to ~~the~~ said suspension A, by means of which a suspension B is obtained;

c) depositing said suspension B ~~is deposited~~ on said~~the~~ substrate by a dip coating method, by means of which a green layer is obtained;

d) drying said ~~the~~ green layer obtained in step c) to obtain a dried layer ~~is dried~~; and

e) calcining said ~~the~~ dried layer obtained in step d) ~~is calcined~~

to obtain said metal oxide layer on said substrate.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the metal oxide layer obtained after step e) has a thickness of 1 μm to 100 μm.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein~~in which~~ the metal oxide layer obtained after step e) has a thickness of 1 μm to 10 μm.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of~~chosen from:~~ simple oxides of the transition metals and lanthanides; mixed oxides of transition metals and lanthanides~~several of these metals~~; and mixtures of these simple oxides and mixed oxides.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the metal oxide is yttrium-stabilized zirconia of cubic or tetragonal structure.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the dispersion solvent comprises a solvent selected from the group consisting of~~is chosen from~~ water, ketones, aliphatic alcohols and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 6, wherein~~in which~~ the dispersion solvent is an azeotropic mixture of ethanol and methyl ethyl ketone.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the content of the metal oxide powder in suspension A is 1% by weight to 80% by weight~~, preferably 20 to 60% by weight, more preferably 30 to 50% by weight, and still more preferably 30 to 40% by weight~~.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the metal oxide powder has particles ~~have a~~ the size of 5 nm to 5 µm~~, preferably 100 to 300 nm and better still 50 to 300 nm~~.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the dispersant comprises an~~is chosen from~~ ionic surfactant~~s and~~ or a non-ionic surfactant~~s, such as phosphate esters~~.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 10, wherein~~in which~~ the dispersant is ~~the~~ a phosphate ester ~~MELIORAN®~~.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the mass content of the dispersant in suspension A is from 0.1% by weight to 10% by weight, ~~preferably 2 to 3% by weight,~~ relative to the mass of the dry metal oxide powder dispersed~~added~~.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the polymer is ~~chosen from~~selected from the group consisting of poly(aliphatic)esters.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the polymer is a polymer obtainable from the reaction between hexamethylenetetramine and acetylacetone in acid medium~~, for example in acetic acid~~.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the solution of the at least one polymer of step b) furthermore contains the same metals as those of the metal oxide powder.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the solution of step b) has a viscosity of 5 mPa.s to 1000 mPa.s~~, preferably 20 to 100 mPa.s~~.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~, in step b), the polymer solution is added to the suspension A in a proportion expressed as a mass ratio (r_m)~~, namely the ratio mass of polymer solution/mass of dispersion A,~~ of 0.01 to 3~~, preferably 0.1 to 0.6 and more preferably 0.1 to 0.5~~.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ in the dip coating method of step c), ~~includes a step of removing~~ the substrate is removed from the suspension B at a controlled rate of 0.1 cm/min to 100 cm/min~~, preferably 1 to 10 cm/min~~.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the drying is carried out at a temperature ranging from room temperature to 150°C~~, preferably from room temperature to 50°C~~.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 19, wherein~~in which~~ the drying is performed over a period of time of ~~is from~~ 1 min to 10 h~~, preferably about 1 h~~.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the calcining~~ation~~ of step e) is carried out at a calcination temperature of 200°C to 1800°C~~, preferably 400 to 1800°C and more preferably 1000 to 1400°C~~.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein~~in which~~ the calcination temperature is reached, starting from room temperature, at a rate of increase of 0.1 °C/min to 100°C/min~~, preferably 1 to 10°C/min~~.

23. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein~~in which~~ the calcination temperature is maintained for a time of ~~a few seconds, for example~~ 2 seconds to ~~several hours, preferably 1 to~~ 10 h.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~, in step e), the metal oxide layer and the substrate undergo a simultaneous sintering, or cosintering, operation.

25. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the substrate is a fully dense substrate~~, for example a refractory oxide substrate~~.

26. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the substrate is a porous substrate having an open and/or closed porosity ranging up to 50% by volume.

27. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein~~in which~~ the substrate is ~~chosen from:~~ selected from a group consisting of metal substrates~~, such as steel, silicon or aluminium substrates~~; optionally doped ceramic substrates~~, such as alumina or yttrium-stabilized zirconia substrates, whether or not doped~~; glass substrates; and composite substrates formed from two or more of ~~these~~ metal substrates, optionally doped ceramic substrates, and glass substrates~~families of materials~~.

28. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 27, wherein~~in which~~ the substrate is a porous Ni-YSZ cermet substrate ~~forming for example an anode, for example of an SOFC fuel cell~~.